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HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Eleanor Chavez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE AND THE BOARD OF NURSING TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A NEW STATEWIDE EDUCATION PLAN AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THAT PLAN.

WHEREAS, out of fifty states and the District of Columbia, New Mexico ranks fiftieth for the number of nurses per one hundred thousand population; and

WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico center for nursing excellence, New Mexico will need an estimated five thousand more nurses in the work force than were in the work force as of June 2008 in order to meet projected needs; and

WHEREAS, programs to educate nurses in New Mexico have almost doubled their capacity in the last seven years; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico schools offering nursing degree

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1 programs were unable to admit two hundred forty qualified  
2 applicants for the 2009-2010 academic year, which represents  
3 twenty percent of all applicants; and

4 WHEREAS, according to a recent survey and study conducted  
5 by the New Mexico center for nursing excellence, between forty-  
6 eight and one hundred seventy-one additional full-time-  
7 equivalent nursing faculty members are needed to be able to  
8 admit all qualified candidates for a nursing degree; and

9 WHEREAS, many barriers exist to the recruitment and  
10 retention of nursing faculty members, including faculty  
11 compensation that does not compete with practice settings, a  
12 weak educational pipeline to develop new faculty, models of  
13 education that prohibit collaboration among institutions and a  
14 challenging and difficult work environment; and

15 WHEREAS, in January 2009, the higher education department  
16 issued the *New Mexico Nursing Program Development Enhancement*  
17 *Fund Study*, which contained recommendations to increase the  
18 capacity of New Mexico educational institutions to educate  
19 nurses and to increase the number of nurse faculty members,  
20 including encouraging career pathways for master's- and  
21 doctoral-level educators to teach in nursing programs and  
22 increases in faculty salaries through multi-level strategies;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the study conducted by the New Mexico center for  
25 nursing excellence recommended that nurse educators, supported

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1 by the higher education department, develop a statewide plan  
2 for nursing education to address the identified barriers and  
3 challenges to ensuring an adequate supply of nurses to meet  
4 future demand; and

5 WHEREAS, a task force created in 2009 pursuant to House  
6 Joint Memorial 40, made up of the New Mexico higher education  
7 department, the board of nursing and the center for nursing  
8 excellence, found that experienced faculty who are at  
9 retirement age might extend their careers by having the  
10 flexibility to reach students through off-site distance  
11 learning; and

12 WHEREAS, the House Joint Memorial 40 task force found that  
13 the current nursing educational system, in which each nursing  
14 educational institution is responsible for developing its own  
15 curriculum, recruiting and retaining qualified faculty and  
16 finding clinical rotations for nursing students, is highly  
17 inefficient; and

18 WHEREAS, the House Joint Memorial 40 task force found that  
19 the development of a statewide curriculum to decrease faculty  
20 preparatory time; the sharing of faculty to make the best use  
21 of existing expertise; the regional sharing of facilities; and  
22 the use of web-based education for common core curricula would  
23 afford new efficiencies in nursing education;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the center for

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1 nursing excellence and the board of nursing be requested to  
2 develop a statewide plan for nursing education involving  
3 multiple institutions of nursing education, focusing upon:

4 A. the development of programs, such as the  
5 registered-nurse to bachelor-of-science-in-nursing program and  
6 the bachelor-of-science-in-nursing to doctorate-in-nursing  
7 program, to train nursing faculty from the population of  
8 nurses;

9 B. the development of a statewide curriculum for  
10 nursing education;

11 C. the use of simulation and tele-education and  
12 other distance-learning technology to enhance nursing education  
13 and promote the efficient use of resources;

14 D. providing a seamless admission process to  
15 nursing school;

16 E. allowing the possibility of dual enrollment in  
17 associate's and bachelor's of science in nursing programs;

18 F. allowing early entry into master's of science in  
19 nursing or nursing doctorate programs; and

20 G. sharing faculty among nursing educational  
21 institutions; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, following the development of  
23 a statewide nursing education plan, the center for nursing  
24 excellence and the board of nursing be requested to develop a  
25 statewide infrastructure for distance learning and a central

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1 curriculum resource web site; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the center for nursing  
3 excellence and the director of the board of nursing report  
4 their findings to the legislative health and human services  
5 committee and the legislative education study committee by  
6 November 1, 2010; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the director of the center for nursing  
9 excellence and the director of the board of nursing.